

Panel Had Turned Down Agency

Aspin Gave CIA Intelligence Report

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Rep. Les Aspin (D-Wis.) testified yesterday that he lent his copy of the House intelligence committee's report to the CIA last January, after the agency had been turned down by the committee staff, in an effort to reach a compromise and avoid the confrontation that led to leak of the report to Daniel Schorr and its publication in *The Village Voice*.

The House ethics committee, directed by the House to try to learn the source of the leak, was told by its investigators at Monday's opening hearing that intelligence committee Chairman Otis G. Pike (D-N.Y.) had ordered the staff not to give the CIA a copy of the final report, though it had been given a staff draft for comment earlier. Pike reasoned that once the committee had approved the report, the CIA had no right to an advance look at it.

Aspin said that on Saturday morning, Jan. 24, the day after the committee approved the report, he received a telephone call from Mitchell Rogovin, special counsel to the CIA, who said

the committee staff had refused to give him a copy of the report and asked to borrow his. Aspin agreed, and the CIA promptly ran off 30 copies for study by the White House and other executive branch agencies.

Aspin said he had been trying for some time to work out an agreement between the committee and the CIA and hoped that the CIA, after studying the final version, could go to committee leaders and reach an agreement.

"There was no substantive reason why we couldn't get out a report saying what the committee wanted to say and which the CIA could approve," said Aspin. "But it became politically impossible."

Aspin said he had not known that Pike had cut the CIA off the list of those authorized to see the final report. Nothing was said about that at the committee meeting where it was approved, Aspin said. Pike would not comment on Aspin's statements.

Aspin said in a later discussion that he and Rogovin said each had been the other's first suspect as the leak

to Schorr, but decided they couldn't have been because the copy Aspin loaned the CIA omitted two pages contained in the *Village Voice* version.

After yesterday's ethics committee hearing, five of the 12 members of Pike's now-disbanded intelligence committee had appeared before the committee and testified under oath that they had leaked no classified information to Schorr or anyone else.

The other members of the committee apparently will be asked to do the same. Those who have testified besides Pike and Aspin were Reps. Dale Milford (D-Tex.), William Lehman (D-Fla.) and Philip H. Hayes (D-Ind.).

Milford told the commit-

tee it should call in Schorr and ask him to identify his source. Rep. F. Edward Hebert (D-La.), a former reporter, was opposed.

"His lawyer says he won't answer," Hebert said. "He wants to be charged with contempt so they can put him in jail, so he'll have a story running for weeks. I never met a reporter who didn't want to go to jail."

Schorr admitted giving his copy of the report, which is critical of CIA operations, to the *Village Voice* after the House ordered the report suppressed because the administration said it contained material that would be harmful to national security.